

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted with a three month extension of time.

Applicants thank Examiner for the courtesy shown their Attorney, Karen Harding, during the telephone interview on December 11, 2006.

The Examiner proposed the amendments to claim 1, above and suggested that if the amendments were presented, the claims would be in a condition for allowance. To expedite prosecution, Applicants hereby present the claims as discussed with Examiner Bashore, without prejudice to present additional claims in a continuation application.

Applicants submit that the amendments are appropriately filed under 37 CFR 1.312, as they include amendments suggested by the Examiner during the interview and put the claims in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 1 has been reworded to more clearly recite the subject matter disclosed in the specification. Withdrawal of the rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1-8, 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT 99/35520 (Winterton et al.).

Winterton et al. discloses alternately contacting lenses with a polycationic and polyanionic materials. According to Winterton, the first polyionic material is a polycationic material. See page 7, last paragraph. Claim 1 clearly recites that the first step is immersing in an aqueous solution, comprising as a first polymer a carboxyl functional polymer having a weight average molecular weight of 200 or more. None of the first polyionic materials disclosed by Winterton comprise a polycarboxyl functional polymer as recited in the present claims.

Moreover, for the reasons discussed above with respect to Winterton, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 42-43 are patentable over the combination of Winterton and Heiler.

Conclusions

Applicants request the Examiner to enter the amendments, reconsider and withdraw the standing rejections and objections of the claims; and pass claims 1, 3-8, 10-14 and new claims 39-49 and 51-53 to allowance.

If the Examiner is of a contrary view, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (904) 443-3074.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 11, 2006

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